



# RED CROSS RED CRESCENT REFERENCE CENTRES

2015

Contributing to the impact of the global Red Cross Red Crescent Movement

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Saving lives, changing minds.

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



# FOREWORD

It is my pleasure to offer you an overview of the many Red Cross Red Crescent Reference Centres working to support and build the capacity of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Since the early 1990s, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has supported the development of 12 specialized Reference Centres hosted in National Societies across the globe. Working in close coordination with the IFRC secretariat, the Reference Centres are part of an inclusive and collaborative network designed to provide technical assistance, information sharing, research and advocacy to the Movement. Each of these centres integrates the experience of the world's largest humanitarian network with the latest research, innovations and developments in various fields, developing strategically important knowledge and best practices to inform Red Cross and Red Crescent operations in key areas of interest and influence.

The collective contribution of the centres has been beneficial to the Movement on many levels. By aggregating research, innovation and best practices, the centres have elevated the quality of the tools and guidance we employ to save lives and build stronger communities. They have also connected National Societies with common interests and facilitated knowledge sharing, building a stronger, more robust Movement. In addition, the centres serve as spaces for creative thinking that help the Movement to continue to grow and innovate, improving existing services and helping solve new problems in a rapidly changing world.

This brochure offers a brief snapshot of the range of services each centre provides. I encourage each National Society to avail themselves of these resources and reach out to whichever centres can support their work. I hope you are able to use the expertise and experience of these centres to help us build a stronger, smarter and more effective Movement that is better prepared for the future.

Elhadj As Sy  
Secretary General



## ABOUT THE RED CROSS RED CRESCENT REFERENCE CENTRES

Red Cross Red Crescent Reference Centres (Centres) are delegated functions of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). They are hosted by Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies around the world. Each Centre focuses on a specific subject or thematic area and supports the strategic exchange of knowledge essential for future Red Cross Red Crescent operations. The Centres offer National Societies training, technical assistance, advocacy, knowledge management, and research, and make sure that the

resources they provide are of the highest quality, readily accessible and adapted to local needs. They respect the IFRC's founding principles as well as the practices and policies of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and the National Societies that host them.

# CENTRES OF EXPERTISE AROUND THE WORLD

1. Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Reference Centre
  2. Centre for Evidence-Based Practice
  3. Climate Centre
  4. Global Disaster Preparedness Centre
  5. Global First Aid Reference Centre
  6. Livelihoods Resource Centre
  7. Reference Centre for Community Resilience
  8. Reference Centre for Institutional Disaster Preparedness
  9. Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support
  10. Shelter Research Unit
  11. Reference Centre on Volunteering
  12. Regional Reference Centre for Medical Emergencies and Pre-hospital Care
  13. Global Advisory Panel
- Barbados**  
**Belgium**  
**The Netherlands**  
**United States of America**  
**France**  
**Spain**  
**Costa Rica**  
**El Salvador**  
**Denmark**  
**Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg**  
**Great Britain - Spain**  
**Ecuador**
- Australia - Switzerland**

# RED CROSS CARIBBEAN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT REFERENCE CENTRE

## CADRIM

Hosted by the Barbados  
Red Cross Society



### Purpose of Centre

The Red Cross Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Reference Centre (CADRIM) is a regional platform that assists Caribbean Red Cross Societies and partner organizations to investigate, analyse and develop knowledge on how to strengthen community resilience through sustainable preparedness and risk reduction activities, particularly in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).



### Key Services

- 1 Manages knowledge and shares information.
- 2 Develops and adapts tools and methodologies
- 3 Offers internships and technical exchanges
- 4 Hosts and maintains a regional database of trainers

### HIGHLIGHTS

To date, CADRIM has developed and updated six different methodologies for creating safer and more resilient communities and stronger Red Cross National Societies in the Caribbean. They build on the participation, innovation and expertise of Red Cross national societies, tertiary level institutions and partners. Since 2011, the Centre has hosted 22 internships, as well as two staff secondments, from the Caribbean, Europe, Central America and the United States, and facilitated three technical exchanges in the Caribbean.

### Contact information

-  : [www.cadrim.org](http://www.cadrim.org)
-  : [www.facebook.com/CADRIM.IFRC](http://www.facebook.com/CADRIM.IFRC)
-  : [cadrim.americas@ifrc.org](mailto:cadrim.americas@ifrc.org)
-  : <https://twitter.com/CADRIM1>

# CENTRE FOR EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

## CEBaP

Hosted by Belgian  
Red Cross



### Purpose of Centre

The Centre for Evidence-Based Practice (CEBaP) of the Belgian Red Cross provides scientifically substantiated information, advice and support to Red Cross and Red Crescent partners in order to determine which activities are most effective and to create uniformity among the various activities of National Societies. CEBaP aims to create a bridge between science and practice and offers support to the Belgian Red Cross for policy implementation.



Nigerian Red Cross volunteers conduct an interview as part of the on-going monitoring survey in Cross River State. ©Benoit Matsha-Carpenter/IFRC

### Key Services

- 1 Knowledge development around evidence-based practice guidelines and systematic reviews
- 2 Knowledge management and dissemination of knowledge

### HIGHLIGHTS

CEBaP seeks to assist and inspire organizations to use evidence-based methods in their work. It published a methodological charter in a peer-based review on how humanitarian organizations can apply an evidence-based approach (De Buck et al. 2014. International Journal of Evidence-Based Healthcare. 12(1):39-49).” It has developed an evidence-based approach to teaching first aid in primary and secondary schools, which includes a curriculum and targets for knowledge, skills and attitudes.

### Contact information

- 📄: [www.info.redcross.be](http://www.info.redcross.be) and click ‘Centre for Evidence-Based Practice’ (a publication list of peer-reviewed publications can be found on our webpages)\*
- ✉: [cebap@redcross.be](mailto:cebap@redcross.be)

# CLIMATE CENTRE

## Hosted by the Netherlands Red Cross



### Purpose of Centre

The Climate Centre supports the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its partners in reducing the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events on vulnerable people.



Vietnam Red Cross staff and volunteers support communities on the coast to bring in their rice harvests ahead of a typhoon. ©Tran Quang Tuan/Vietnam Red Cross

### Key Services

- 1 Assists National Societies to access climate information
- 2 Conducts research into climate science and humanitarian action
- 3 Provides technical assistance and develops participatory methods to link climate information and humanitarian operations
- 4 Advocates in climate policy forums on behalf of the most vulnerable

### HIGHLIGHTS

The Climate Centre works on applying scientific forecasts of weather and climate to help predict potential disaster and long-term change. This enables humanitarian organizations and vulnerable people to respond sooner, and to prepare for changing risk patterns to reduce losses of lives and livelihoods. Standard operating procedures support the stepwise actions that can be taken when early warnings reach certain agreed thresholds. Scientists are constantly improving forecasts, and the reduction in losses and suffering produced by 'early action' more than justifies the original investment.

### Contact information

: [www.climatecentre.org](http://www.climatecentre.org)

: [climatecentre@climatecentre.org](mailto:climatecentre@climatecentre.org)

: [@RCClimate](https://twitter.com/RCClimate)

# GLOBAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS CENTRE

## GDPC

Hosted by American  
Red Cross



**Global Disaster  
Preparedness Center**

### Purpose of Centre

The Global Disaster Preparedness Centre (GDPC) helps to enhance the disaster preparedness capacities of Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies and the wider humanitarian community. It provides specific network-wide services in response to national and community demands for tools and learning on disaster preparedness and resilience.



Residents practice using a participatory tool that allows communities to improve their living environment, build safer shelters and design better settlements. ©Agostino Pacciani/IFRC

### Key Services

- 1 Knowledge management
- 2 Research
- 3 Technical assistance
- 4 Networking and coordination

### HIGHLIGHTS

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GDPC initiatives such as the Universal App Program (UAP) create scalable approaches to disaster preparedness and resilience. The UAP is a web-based platform that enables National Societies to adapt first aid and multi-hazard apps to their needs. Each Red Cross or Red Crescent Society will be able to customize apps via an easy-to-use interface that is efficient and cost effective. The GDPC website, PrepareCenter.org, hosts a virtual network of disaster preparedness practitioners and offers peer-to-peer learning opportunities.

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### Contact information

: [www.preparecenter.org](http://www.preparecenter.org)

: [gipc@redcross.org](mailto:gipc@redcross.org)

: [www.facebook.com/disaster.preparedness.center](https://www.facebook.com/disaster.preparedness.center)

: [@PrepareCenter](https://twitter.com/PrepareCenter)

# GLOBAL FIRST AID REFERENCE CENTRE

## GFARC

Hosted by French  
Red Cross



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
**Global First Aid Reference Centre**

### Purpose of Centre

The Global First Aid Reference Centre (GFARC) is the IFRC's technical expertise hub, providing first aid information and related support to Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies around the world.



Argentinian Red Cross volunteers provide first aid to community members. ©Daniel Cima/IFRC

### Key Services

- 1 Harmonizing first aid
- 2 Sharing competences
- 3 Building capacities
- 4 Promoting evidence based approach and research
- 5 Advocating for first aid
- 6 Supporting risk reduction and resilience strategy

### HIGHLIGHTS

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The main goal of the GFARC is to ensure a growing number of people and communities, anywhere (at home, at work, at school...), are prepared and equipped to save lives when a disaster or an emergency during daily life occurs. To achieve this goal the GFARC strives to provide National Societies with tools and training methods tailored to meet the needs of local communities. Improving the quality of first aid education will help make people confident to act everywhere anytime. By giving ordinary people life-saving skills, first aid is also a cost-effective tool that empowers individuals by giving them a chance to help themselves and others, and contributes to building resilient communities.

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### Contact information

✉: [first.aid@ifrc.org](mailto:first.aid@ifrc.org)

# LIVELIHOODS RESOURCE CENTRE

## LRC

### Hosted by Spanish Red Cross



#### Purpose of Centre

The Livelihoods Resource Centre (LRC) spreads awareness of effective livelihoods programming strategies, and helps IFRC members to enhance community capacity and individual skills, restore and sustain sustainable livelihoods, and thereby establish more secure living conditions. The LRC is also a network of community-based livelihood experts, who can pass on knowledge, develop methodologies and policies, build capacity, and provide technical assistance.



A resident prepares his boat before sailing to fish with the help of the Philippine Red Cross livelihood assistance project after Typhoon Bopha. ©Cheryl Gagala/IFRC

#### Key Services

- 1 Creates and shares knowledge
- 2 Builds capacity, mainly through training
- 3 Promotes and disseminates policies and strategic approaches
- 4 Offers technical assistance

#### HIGHLIGHTS

The LRC is developing innovative solutions to some of the most demanding policy challenges in livelihood programming: generating livelihoods in chronic disaster situations; increasing resilience; establishing an integrated programming approach; applying urban cash transfer programmes. As National Societies work more and more with marginalized groups in urban areas, the LRC plans to become a reference for humanitarian organizations in this area, facilitating cooperation and disseminating good practices and lessons learned.

#### Contact information

 [www.livelihoodscentre.org](http://www.livelihoodscentre.org)

 [Livelihoods@cruzroja.es](mailto:Livelihoods@cruzroja.es)

 [www.facebook.com/livelihoods.centre](https://www.facebook.com/livelihoods.centre)

# REFERENCE CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

## CENTRO DE REFERENCIA PARA LA RESILIENCIA COMUNITARIA

### CRREC

Hosted by the Costa  
Rica Red Cross



#### Purpose of Centre

The Reference Centre for Community Resilience (CRREC) specializes in methodologies for investigating, systematizing, validating and analysing community education with respect to disaster preparedness, prevention, mitigation, and early warning. By developing innovative and complementary tools and methodologies, it aims to reduce the vulnerability of communities across Latin America.



Red Cross volunteers in Guatemala show a new water treatment system with enough water for 85 households and a school. © Marko Kocic/IFRC

#### Key Services

- 1 Researches and develops new technologies
- 2 Offers technical assistance in support of efforts to strengthen community resilience
- 3 Develops methodologies, materials and learning tools
- 4 Provides international training to National Societies, non-governmental organizations and other partners

#### HIGHLIGHTS

In Latin America CRREC gives advice and guidance on Red Cross Red Crescent vulnerability and capacity assessments; risk in urban contexts: livelihoods; early warning systems; and community resilience. It builds capacity through internships, trainings, and a series of disaster preparedness modules titled *Prevention is Better*.

#### Contact information

: [www.crrec.cruzroja.org](http://www.crrec.cruzroja.org)

: [crrec.americas@ifrc.org](mailto:crrec.americas@ifrc.org)

: [https://www.facebook.com/pages/](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Centro-de-Referencia-para-la-Resiliencia-Comunitaria-C-R-R-E-C/386953838001802)

[Centro-de-Referencia-para-la-Resiliencia-Comunitaria-C-R-R-E-C/386953838001802](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Centro-de-Referencia-para-la-Resiliencia-Comunitaria-C-R-R-E-C/386953838001802)

# REFERENCE CENTRE FOR INSTITUTIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

## *CENTRO DE REFERENCIA EN PREPARACIÓN INSTITUCIONAL PARA DESASTRES*

### **CREPD**

Hosted by the El  
Salvador Red Cross



#### **Purpose of Centre**

The Reference Centre for Institutional Disaster Preparedness (CREPD) works closely with the IFRC Americas Zone Office to strengthen the preparedness and response capacity of National Societies, and their expertise in vulnerability reduction. It develops methodologies, tools and harmonization processes that draw on the technical expertise and good practices of Red Cross societies in Latin America.

#### **Key Services**

- 1 National intervention teams, such as: water, sanitation and hygiene promotion; health in emergencies; disease control; psychosocial support; and humanitarian logistics
- 2 Response and contingency plans
- 3 Standard operating procedures
- 4 Operation of emergency operation centres
- 5 Disaster assessments
- 6 Simulations and drills
- 7 IFRC online learning platform

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

CREPD and the Learning Unit of the IFRC Americas Zone Office provide technical and development support to online learning courses. CREPD has supported courses on coordination and management of temporary housing, and assisted National Societies to explore other virtual learning opportunities.

#### **Contact information**

 [www.crepd.cruzroja.org](http://www.crepd.cruzroja.org)

 <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Centro-de-Referencia-en-Preparaci%C3%B3n-Institucional-para-Desastres/483503008335725>



Participants at regional Water and Sanitation training. ©IFRC

# REFERENCE CENTRE FOR PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

## PS Centre

Hosted by Danish  
Red Cross

### Psychosocial Centre



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

### Purpose of Centre

The Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support (PS Centre) assists National Societies to provide psychological and psychosocial assistance, raises awareness of psychological reactions to disaster and social disruption, promotes restoration of community networks and coping mechanisms, and improves the provision of emotional support to staff and volunteers.



Volunteers play with a group of children at the psychosocial centre in Dweila, Syria. © Ibrahim Malla/IFRC

### Key Services

- 1 Provides technical and operational support
- 2 Builds the capacity of National Societies and the competence of staff and volunteers
- 3 Creates and shares knowledge
- 4 Advocacy and communications

### HIGHLIGHTS

The primary task of the PS Centre is to support National Societies and enable them to provide psychosocial support. It responds to requests by National Societies for technical and operational guidance, and facilitates capacity building. National Societies have become increasingly able to provide broad and more specific training to their staff and volunteers, who use these skills and knowledge to help individuals who are affected by crisis situations.

### Contact information

: [www.pscentre.org](http://www.pscentre.org)

: [psychosocial.centre@ifrc.org](mailto:psychosocial.centre@ifrc.org)

: <https://www.facebook.com/Psychosocial.Center>

# SHELTER RESEARCH UNIT

## SRU

### Hosted by Benelux Red Cross Societies

(Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg)



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**Shelter Research Unit**  
an initiative of the Benelux Red Cross Societies

#### Purpose of Centre

The IFRC-SRU focuses on protecting people from shelter-related vulnerabilities and risks after disasters. It was established by Benelux Red Cross Societies and the IFRC Shelter and Settlements Department in Geneva to improve humanitarian shelter interventions by strengthening the technical capacity and resources of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.



As part of its disaster preparedness programme, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society is constructing homes on higher ground to ward off flooding should river waters rise again in the upcoming monsoon season. © IFRC

#### Key Services

- 1 Maps shelter solutions and strengthens and disseminates shelter knowledge
- 2 Analyses techniques and practices to identify and address technical gaps by research and innovation
- 3 Improves products by linking humanitarian practitioners, academic institutions and private enterprises in research
- 4 Tests materials and items to ensure they are appropriate for humanitarian shelter interventions and develops specifications

#### HIGHLIGHTS

The IFRC-SRU holds an annual conference on a technical topic relevant to humanitarian shelter (use of steel, anchoring and fixing, cladding and fixing). Based on this and other learning, it has developed a virtual Shelter Solutions Database that documents and analyses shelter solutions and practices, and materials, building techniques and designs.

#### Contact information

 [www.ifrc-sru.org](http://www.ifrc-sru.org)

 [ifrc-sru@croix-rouge.lu](mailto:ifrc-sru@croix-rouge.lu)

# REFERENCE CENTRE ON VOLUNTEERING

## Hosted by British Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross

### Purpose of Centre

The Reference Centre on Volunteering develops, promotes, facilitates and manages knowledge on volunteer management and volunteering development in Europe.



South Sudan Red Cross volunteers take part in a training in preparation for the independence celebrations. © Conor Asleigh/IFRC

### Key Services

- 1 Runs training courses, including 'Volunteer management in the Red Cross/Red Crescent'
- 2 Produces newsletters on volunteering
- 3 Runs a news service on volunteering
- 4 Maintains the Reference Centre on Volunteering website
- 5 Researches good practice in volunteer management

### HIGHLIGHTS

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The Reference Centre on Volunteering was founded in 2005 by the former Western European Network for the Development of Volunteering (WENDO), now known as the European Network for Development of Volunteering. It is supported by the Spanish and British Red Cross, and facilitates knowledge sharing on volunteering in Europe. Having broadened its scope, the Centre now promotes online training courses on volunteer management and the mapping of volunteering practices across Europe.

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### Contact information

 : [www.rcvolunteering.org](http://www.rcvolunteering.org)

# REGIONAL REFERENCE CENTRE FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES AND PRE-HOSPITAL CARE

## CREMYAP

### Hosted by the Ecuadorian Red Cross

#### Purpose of Centre

The Regional Reference Centre for Medical Emergencies and Pre-hospital Care (CREMYAP) aims to assist members of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the Americas in strengthening National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' capacity in providing pre-hospital care through the development of methodologies, tools, learning techniques, and harmonized processes, taking into account the existing knowledge and best practice of the global network of National Societies.



Students attending CPR session at the Ecuadorian Red Cross Technological Institute facility. ©CREMYAP

#### Key Services

- 1 Technical assistance to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, non-governmental, public and private organizations
- 2 Develops, systematizes and harmonizes training processes in the area of pre-hospital care
- 3 Promotes best practices and standards of adequate quality

#### HIGHLIGHTS

CREMYAP seeks to strengthen the capacity of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the Americas through research, systematization and analysis of techniques, equipment and regulations in the area of pre-hospital care, to ensure the provision of quality services to the most vulnerable, as well as to improve or establish a sustainable source of revenue for National Societies. CREMYAP relies on the support of experts from National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies with in-depth experience in pre-hospital care, as well the support of Ecuadorian Red Cross Technological Institute, which has skilled personnel certified by the Ecuadorian Higher Education Council.

#### Contact information

✉: [presidencia@cruzroja.org.ec](mailto:presidencia@cruzroja.org.ec),

[cremyap@cruzrojainstituto.edu.ec](mailto:cremyap@cruzrojainstituto.edu.ec)

☎: (593) 603 6096, (593) 228 4812

☎: (593) 998 242 761, (593) 983 519 178

📘: <https://www.facebook.com/cremyapcre>

# GLOBAL ADVISORY PANEL (GAP) ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT OF BLOOD SERVICES IN RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES



## Purpose of Centre

The purpose of GAP is to provide advice to National Societies and their affiliated blood services, IFRC and other related bodies in matters related to blood service corporate governance and risk management.



## Key Services (e.g. Knowledge management, research, technical assistance, advocacy, networking)

- 1 Provide technical advice in terms of corporate governance and risk management to National Society blood programmes
- 2 Promote knowledge sharing, networking, and partnership among and between Red Cross and Red Crescent blood services and external partners
- 3 Develop tools and guidelines as appropriate within the area of National Society blood programme delivery
- 4 Coordination of Red Cross/Red Crescent assistance to National Society blood services in post-emergency situations

## HIGHLIGHTS

GAP has developed a Self-assessment tool to assist National Society blood services to ensure the long term stability and sustainability of their blood service without exposure to any unnecessary risk. The Self-assessment is located at: [www.globaladvisorypanel.org](http://www.globaladvisorypanel.org). On completion of the Self-assessment, GAP provides each blood service with a detailed feedback report, including analysis of the results, identification of areas of concern, and providing recommendations on risk management strategies to address the identified risks. GAP holds regional meetings for participant blood services to compare their performance against regional benchmarks and best practices. The results of the Self-assessment are outlined, regional issues are highlighted, and specific tools and information are provided to assist blood services to manage their key risks. Partnering opportunities for blood services with stronger regional counterparts are also identified.

## Contact information

- ✉: [gapsecretariat@redcrossblood.org](mailto:gapsecretariat@redcrossblood.org)
- 🌐: [www.globaladvisorypanel.org](http://www.globaladvisorypanel.org)
- 🌐: <https://fednet.ifrc.org/en/resources/health-and-care/blood/materials-and-tools/>

# The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

**Humanity** The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

**Impartiality** It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

**Neutrality** In order to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

**Independence** The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

**Voluntary service** It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

**Unity** There can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

**Universality** The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

